



## OFFSHORE FISHERIES FACTSHEET

### Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

### ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF TUNA IN THE PACIFIC

#### ABOUT WCPFC

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention). The WCPFC was established following seven negotiating sessions known as the Multilateral High Level Conference (MHLC), which began in 1994.

The final MHLC took place in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2000 where the convention was adopted and opened for signature. The Convention entered into force on 19 June 2004.

#### Map of WCPFC Convention Area



#### OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMISSION

The main objective of the Commission is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks such as tuna, billfish, and marlin in the western and central Pacific Ocean through effective management. It also seeks to minimize the detrimental effects of commercial fishing of non-target species that include marine turtles, seabirds, sharks and cetaceans.

The Commission also seeks to address problems arising in the management of high seas fisheries resulting from illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing that occurs around the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) region.

The WCPFC coordinates closely with the regional fisheries body known as the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The FFA is an organization comprised of independent Pacific Island countries who share a common fisheries interest in the Pacific Ocean region.

### The Commission is supported by four subsidiary bodies:

Subsidiary Bodies	Functions
1. Scientific Committee (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures that the Commission has the best available scientific information on which to consider appropriate conservation and management measures</li> <li>Utilizes the services of expert fisheries scientists and its meetings usually comprise scientific and other related technical representatives</li> <li>Meet in August</li> </ul>
2. Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Known as the enforcement committee of the Commission</li> <li>Reviews members' adherence to Commission decisions and monitors individual countries' implementation of those measures</li> <li>Makes recommendations to the Commission with respect to encouraging, improving and enforcing compliance by members with decisions of the Commission</li> <li>Meet in October</li> </ul>
3. Northern Committee (NC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes recommendation to the Commission on species that are mostly found in the Convention Area 20 degrees north.</li> <li>Unlike the SC and TCC, not all members of the Commission are represented on the NC</li> <li>Although participation in the NC is limited to those members that are located in the area north of 20 degrees north, or are fishing in the area, any Commission member may participate as an observer</li> </ul>
4. The Finance and Administration Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliberates over the Commission's budget with recommendations forwarded to the Commission for adoption</li> <li>Meets annually along with the Commission meeting</li> <li>Represented by all commission members</li> </ul>

## HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE WCPFC?

Decisions are taken by the Commission are generally done by consensus. In cases where decisions have to be taken by vote, usually on substantive matters, a "two-chamber system" applies. The FFA members of the Commission comprise one chamber, while non-FFA members form the other chamber. Decisions are taken by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting in each chamber and no proposal can be defeated by two or fewer votes in either chamber.

## MEMBERS OF THE WCPFC

### COMMISSION MEMBERS OR CONTRACTING PARTIES - INCLUDE CUSTODIAN COASTAL STATES AND FISHING NATIONS:

Australia, China, Canada, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu.

### PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES - TERRITORIES THAT HAVE PARTICIPATING AND SPEAKING RIGHTS AT THE COMMISSION MEETING:

American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna.

### COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS - A NON-MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, WITH AN INTEREST IN THE FISHERY, OR WHOSE VESSELS FISH OR INTEND TO FISH IN THE CONVENTION AREA:

Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Liberia, Thailand, Vietnam.



#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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#### For more information

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